Commission No. 984 h

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to File No.

New Orleans, Louisiana
May 1, 1964

ORESTES PENA
IS - CUBA

Information was received on April 30, 1964, from Confidential Informant NO T-1 that T-1 had heard that Orestes Pena, owner of the Habana Bar, 117 Decatur Street, New Orleans, Louisiana, had stated he was going to depart New Orleans on May 1, 1964, to visit Europe and would also visit Moscow. The purpose of this trip was not known to Confidential Informant NO T-1.

On April 30, 1964, Confidential Informant NO T-2 advised that a source close to Orestes Pena advised on April 30, 1964, that Pena said he was going to Europe and Moscow on an excursion with 24 businessmen, and that he was leaving New Orleans on May 1, 1964, method of travel not being stated.

Confidential Informant NO T-3, on May 1, 1964, advised that Orestes Pena was going to depart New Orleans, Louisiana, on Delta Airlines Flight 970 at 12:55 PM, CST, and would arrive Newark, New Jersey, at 5:21 PM, May 1, 1964; will leave Newark at 6:04 PM via New York Airways helicopter and arrive John F. Kennedy Airport, New York, at 6:21 PM, May 1, 1964; will depart New York City at 9:00 PM, May 1, 1964, aboard Alitalia Flight 633 and will arrive in London, England, at 8:35 AM on May 2, 1964.

On May 1, 1964, Mr. William Tweedle, Ticket Agent, Delta Airlines, New Orleans International Airport, Moisant Field, advised that Orestes Pena had presented his ticket at the Delta Airlines counter at the New Orleans International Airport at approximately 12:15 PM on May 1, 1964, and that the numerous cities which Orestes Pena was to visit were listed as follows: Paris, Madrid, Rome, Munich, Berlin, Frankfurt, and New York. He advised that the aforementioned ticket was sold to Pena by the American Express Company, New Orleans, on April 28, 1964. ?

ORESTES PENA
IS - CUBA

Mr. Tweedle also advised that inquiry made of the American Express Company on May 1, 1964, revealed the following additional travel information scheduled to be performed by the subject:

Leave New Orleans, Delta Flight 970, on May 1, 1964, for New York City;

Leave New York City for London, England, aboard Alitalia Flight 633, on May 1, 1964;

Leave London on Air France Flight 813, on May 5, 1964, for Paris, France;

Leave Paris, France, May 12, 1964, on IB Flight 161, for Madrid;

Leave May 22, 1964, from Madrid on Flight TW 900 for Rome;

Leave Rome on May 27, 1964, aboard Flight LN 341, for Munich;

Leave Munich on May 27, 1964, aboard Flight BRA (?) 1972 for Berlin;

Leave Berlin on May 30, 1964, on Flight AF 361, for John F. Kennedy Airport, New York;

Leave New York, May 30, 1964, on Eastern Airlines Flight 543 for New Orleans.

On May 1, 1964, Rosemary Barr, Records and Administration Section, Immigration and Naturalization Service (I&NS), New Orleans, advised that she could locate no record in the name of Orestes Pena.

ORESTES PENA
IS - CUBA

Mr. Leo Johnson, Investigator, I&NS, New Orleans, advised on May 1, 1964, that he believes Orestes Pena is a naturalized United States citizen.

On May 1, 1964, Mr. Charles Ulfers, Deputy Clerk, United States District Court, Eastern District of Louisiana, advised that a check of the Naturalization Records failed to reflect any naturalization information in the name of Orestes Pena.

Set forth below are data previously received relative to Orestes Pena:

Hector Jose Garcia, repairman, Sanborn's Hi-Fi Center, 5551 West Lovers Lane, Dallas, Texas, who resides 6518 Junius Street, Dallas, advised as follows:

One night about two years ago at the Habana Club, located in the French Quarter, New Orleans, Garcia overheard a conversation between (FNU) Orestes and two unknown persons at that club. The latter two unknown persons had made some comment about Fidel Castro of Cuba and Garcia overheard Orestes reply: "Castro should have been notified about that as soon as possible." Garcia assumed the two unidentified men talking to Orestes were merchant seamen. When Orestes saw Garcia standing nearby, he asked Garcia what he wanted and told him to move on. Garcia refused to leave and was struck by Orestes. Garcia called the police, whereupon Orestes told Garcia if he did not leave he would kill him. Garcia left. When the police arrived, according to information Garcia received from friends, they were told by persons at the Habana Bar that a "drunk" had been there and had left. Garcia advised that he was not drinking as he has an ulcer and is unable to do so.

Garcia stated he saw a picture of Orestes in a newspaper in New Orleans a few days later which revealed Orestes as a leader of an anti-Castro organization. Garcia stated that an unidentified waitress at the Havana Club was supposed to have made a long distance call to Fidel Castro personally

about that time. He stated that the waitress had made comments to customers when Garcia was there that she had done so. Garcia is undecided as to whether Orestes is pro- or anti-Castro. He described Orestes as a Spanish-speaking male, who may or may not be a Cuban, age middle thirties, 5 feet 5 or 6 inches, light complexion, who has a brother named Efrain.

The New Orleans States and New Orleans Item newspapers on December 22, 1960, contained a photograph of various delegates of the Cuban Revolutionary Front in New Orleans, among which delegates was included Orestes Pena.

The Cuban Revolutionary Council was an anti-Castro organization in New Orleans which ceased to exist approximately in December of 1961 and which had headquarters in Miami, Florida.

Orestes Pena, owner of the Habana Bar, 117 Decatur Street, New Orleans, located in the French Quarter, had, during the years 1961 and 1962, furnished information to the FBI Office, New Orleans, concerning persons who he claimed were pro-Castro in his opinion.

Orestes Pena is described as a white male, age 38 - 40, dark or black hair, wears mustache, medium complexion, often uses sunglasses, height 5 feet 8 inches, 160 pounds. On his departure from New Orleans, on May 1, 1964, he was dressed in a business suit, nondescript in color, which appeared to be a blend of drab olive-green and brown, wearing a brown tie, white shirt, brown shoes, carrying a dark overcoat and light brown expansion-type brief case with handle on top.